

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this patent application:

Claims 1 to 10 (canceled).

11. (new) A set comprising a head for use with a handpiece of a contra-angle, and a dental instrument adapted for use with the head;

wherein the instrument has an active part at a first end, and a handle at a second end of the instrument opposite to the first end;

wherein the head has a body for receiving a shaft for transmitting rotational movement produced by a mechanical member associated with the handpiece, and a bore forming a housing for receiving the handle of the instrument;

wherein the handle of the instrument includes a first rotary drive which, when mounted in the housing, is capable of meshing directly with a second rotary drive associated with the body of the head;

wherein the first rotary drive is capable of retractable axial retention in the housing, independently of the second rotary drive;

wherein the first rotary drive has a direction of rotation, the second rotary drive has a direction of rotation, and the direction of rotation of the first rotary drive is the same as the direction of rotation of the second rotary drive;

wherein the first rotary drive includes a pinion capable of engaging a drive pinion located inside the body of the head, in the vicinity of the housing, and which is mounted on the shaft for transmitting the rotational movement produced by the mechanical member to the

instrument, for causing rotational movement of the instrument;

wherein the pinion of the first rotary drive has a profile, the second rotary drive includes a drive pinion having a profile, and the profile of the pinion of the first rotary drive meshes with the profile of the drive pinion of the second rotary drive when the instrument is placed in the housing, and wherein the pinion of the first rotary drive and the drive pinion of the second rotary drive come into contact at bottom portions of the drive pinion of the second rotary drive;

wherein the head is shaped to receive the instrument by placing the head on the handle of the instrument; and

wherein the head further includes a retractable retainer for engaging the handle of the instrument responsive to manual operation.

12. (new) The set of claim 11 wherein the instrument further includes a shoulder adjacent to the first rotary drive, on a side of the handle nearest to the active part of the instrument.

13. (new) The set of claim 11 wherein the housing for receiving the handle of the instrument includes an opening, and wherein the retractable retainer includes a retention member which projects across the opening of the housing, and a ring coupled with the retention member and movable relative to the body of the head, against a restoring spring mounted concentrically on the body of the head.

14. (new) The set of claim 13 wherein the retention member further includes a sloped surface on an outer face of the retention member, and wherein the handle further includes a profile which cooperates with the sloped

surface of the retention member so that when the handle is inserted into the head, the profile of the handle causes retraction of the retention member.

15. (new) The set of claim 14 wherein the retention member further includes a horseshoe-shaped profile for cooperating with a shoulder formed on the instrument.

16. (new) The set of claim 11 wherein the housing for receiving the handle of the instrument includes an opening, and wherein the retractable retainer includes a split ring arranged on the head so that, in a rest position, ends of the split ring project into the opening of the housing, and so that the split ring is retractable responsive to a push-button located on upper portions of the head.

17. (new) The set of claim 16 wherein each of the ends of the split ring is provided with a sloped surface for engaging the second end of the instrument, and for allowing access to the housing of the head.

18. (new) The set of claim 17 wherein each of the ends of the split ring further includes a horseshoe-shaped profile for cooperating with a shoulder formed on the instrument.